Reported killing of elephants in the National Park, Mudumalai

1523. DR. R. K. PODDAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Statesman of 12th June, 1986 under the caption "Official connivance with poachers in the South", regarding the killing of elephants in the National Park at Mudumalai;

(b) if so, what action has been taken against the erring officials; and

(c) what steps have been taken to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to a report received from the State Government of Tamil Nadu, there is no involvement of officials.

(c) Does not arise.

New strategy to combat terrorism

1524. SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has planned to devise a new strategy to combat terrorism which is prevailing in different parts of the country and particularly in Punjab; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Government have taken various steps to deal with terrorist activities. These steps include enactment of laws, giving power to the law enforcing agencies to take legal action and administrative measures like streamlining of intelligence set up, strengthening and modernisation of police arrangements in Punjab and other States and on borders and providing of assistance of para-military forces to State Governments.

"Preservation of wetlands in the country"

1525. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the urgent need to preserve wetlands in the country;

(b) if so, whether a decision is likely to be taken to stop reclamation of tropical wetlands for modern uses in view of its natural functions;

(c) whether it is a fact that coastal wetlands in the country provide economic sustenance to millions of the rural masses; and

(d) if so, whether urgent measures are likely to be taken to preserve Pulicat Coastal lake sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh where the State Government propose to denotify 12,000 acres of wetlands for seting up a marine chemical unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHR Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It is for the State Government to take necessary action in this case.

Incident of acid rain in India

1526. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any incident of acid rain has taken place in the country recently;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) which areas are threatened by acid rain;

(d) whether Government are aware of a report of John Mccorwic, the editor of Earthscan, a London based environmental news service; and

(e) if so, what are the observations relating to India contained therein and what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) According to the India Meteorological Department there is no evidence of acid rain problem in the country as indicated by the data being recorded in various places;

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) According to the report, India is stated to be among the countries in which damage done by acid pollution could eventually exceed that experienced in North America and Europe. It is also stated that air pollution is severe in cities like Calcutta, Bombay and Delhi.

In view of (c) above, no specific action is envisaged necessary measures are taken for prevention and control of air pollution.

Progress of National Science and Technical Information Network

1527. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 245 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th August, 1985 and state what are the details of the progress made so far to develop the National Science and Technical Information network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): Under the programmes, National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT) two new information centres on textiles and chemicals have been established at Ahmedabad Textiles Industries Research Association (ATIRA) Ahmedabad and National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) Pune respectively. These are in addition to the existing five information centres on leather, food, machine tools, drugs and pharmaceuticals and crystallography. A series of 15 six-week courses and four one-week courses on application of computer to library and information processing have been promoted. Besides six seminars and workshops on information tool and technology, library automation and translation have been supported. A status report on computer-based bibliographic information processing in India and a feasibility report on on-line access to international databases have been completed.

Acquisition of Hemlock Silicon Technology

1528. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have obtained Hemlock Silicon Technology at a cost of Rs. 5 crores and a royalty of Rs. 9 crores;

(b) whether this technology is being developed by Mettur Chemicals; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for acquisition of Hemlock Silicon Technology was being developed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Government has taken on record technical collaboration Agreement with M/s. Hemlock, USA for the manufacture of Polycrystalline Silicon. As per the Agreement, the know-how including Basic Design Engineering Documentation, improvements and training is